

# 147<sup>TH</sup> RECONNAISSANCE WING THE TEXAN



TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD | ELLINGTON FIELD JRB | HOUSTON, TX

JUNE 2013 | VOL 5 | ISSUE 6

## Houston hosts Armed Forces Day Military Ball

SEE PAGE 5 PHOTO STORY





# Community Assessment Survey: 'A Strong Community Depends on You'



**By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mack Praytor**  
147th Reconnaissance Wing Chaplain

The theme of the 2013 Air Force Community Assessment Survey is "A Strong Community Depends on You." This survey is sponsored by the Air Force Integrated Delivery System. Its goal is to make known the opinions and needs of the entire Air Force community including active duty members, Reservists, Air National Guardsmen, their spouses and Air Force civilian employees.

"Our Air Force is all about people ... caring for airmen and their families," said Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, Air Force chief of staff. "Please invest some time in sharing your thoughts and opinions on how we can do this better and make our Air Force community stronger."

The survey began in April and is completely anonymous – neither the government nor the contractor can link any aspect of community members' responses to personal identifiable information.

The results will be used by base leadership and the Air Force to tar-

get resources where they are most needed to improve community services and enhance the well-being of community members.

Past survey findings have resulted in additional services and programs for service members and their families.

Electronic invitations will be sent to active duty members, Reservists, Air National Guardsmen and appropriated-fund civilian employees requesting them to complete the survey.

Spouses were invited to complete the survey via postcard invitations. Each invitation includes a link to the online survey, which takes roughly 30 to 45 minutes to complete. If you choose to not take the survey, a button allows you to opt out.

"We need to make sure our programs are meeting the needs of airmen and their families," said James Cody, chief master sergeant of the Air Force. "This survey is one way we can learn how well we're doing that. It's every airman's responsibility to provide some honest feedback to help."

If you have any questions regarding the Community Assessment Survey 2013, please call Chaplain Praytor at (281) 929-2536.



**ESOH CAMP INSPECTION 128 DAYS**

**Col. John Daniel**  
Wing Commander

**Col. Terence Winkler**  
Vice Wing Commander

**Lt. Col. Shaunte Cooper**  
Executive Officer

**Capt. Fredy Reyes**  
Public Affairs Officer

**2nd Lt. Alicia Lacy**  
Public Affairs Officer

**Master Sgt. Sean Cowher**  
Public Affairs NCOIC

**Staff Sgt. David Porcelle**  
Photojournalist

**Staff Sgt. Mindy Bloem**  
Broadcast Journalist

**Airman 1st Class Chasity Lollis**  
Photojournalist



[www.147rw.ang.af.mil](http://www.147rw.ang.af.mil)  
[147RW.PublicAffairs@ang.af.mil](mailto:147RW.PublicAffairs@ang.af.mil)

This funded Air Force publication is produced for members of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing at Ellington Field. Contents of The Texan are not necessarily the official views of the U.S. Government, The Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office and members of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing, Ellington Field JRB, 14657 Sneider St., Houston, TX 77034-5586

Cover:  
Staff Sgt. Mario Rocha, 147th Communications Squadron, and his wife, Fabiola Rocha, dance at the Armed Forces Day Military Ball May 18, 2013, at the Reliant Center in Houston (National Guard photo/Master Sgt. Sean Cowher)



**By Chief Master Sgt. Marcus Falleaf**  
147th Civil Engineer Squadron

There are points in everyone's life when they ask themselves if they are on the right path toward a long and successful career. Am I doing the right thing? As a former active duty Marine and current Air National Guardsman, my time came in the 1990s as a technical sergeant. I was faced with no upward mobility, and an opportunity to leave the Air National Guard to become

## 'Walk in the light of a Diamond'

an Army National Guard officer.

With a dark perception of the immediate future, I asked my wing commander for a conditional release and it was done, under the stipulation that I wait for one week in case another option became available. The rest becomes a tale of step-by-step movement to the top of the career ladder.

Just before the end of the one week delay, I was notified of an opening for the headquarters first sergeant position. I applied, boarded and was chosen for the position. After attending the First Sergeant Academy, I became the president of the First Sergeants' Council. The "light of the diamond" had begun to shine.

By the way, I forgot to mention that the commander at the time who asked me to wait a week or so was Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt, the eventual director of the Air National Guard.

Oh yeah, my instructor at the

academy was Valerie Benton, the 8th Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Air National Guard, and my first sergeant mentor, also a former Marine, was Command Chief Master Sgt. Allen Usry, NORAD and U.S. Northern Command. The "Diamond" continued to light the way.

Moving to Texas in 2003 once again cast a shadow on my future. Yet, the education of a "shirt" and the networking accomplished through the "Diamond" enabled still other opportunities for growth at the 147th Fighter Wing, including public affairs, historian, National Guard Association board of directors, state human resource advisor, and now chief master sergeant.

The first sergeant's job is people and I owe my career to the people who gave me the opportunity to wear a diamond and reach heights I never dreamed possible.

Thank you all!

## National Guard service linked to employment

**By National Guard Bureau**  
Public Affairs

Serving in the National Guard and Reserve may be one way to improve employment opportunities, according to a recent U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report.

The report, released by this country's definitive authority on employment issues, stated that Gulf War II-era veterans "who were current or past members of the Reserve and National Guard had an unemployment rate of 7.2 percent." Those vets not affiliated with the Reserve components, the report added, experienced a 13.7 percent unemployment rate. The national average stands at 7.6 percent.

These findings come as no surprise to Col. Wendul Hagler, who works directly for the chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Frank J. Grass.

"The National Guard is aggressively

fighting unemployment for its members across the country," Hagler said. "As a result, our employment rate is about the same as the rest of the nation and even better in certain states and professions," added Hagler. "That's good to know because when our leaders need to call on the National Guard, they don't need to worry about causing employment problems."

National Guard leaders across the nation are leveraging federal and state-unique programs to assist members in the job search. This includes assistance in resume writing, organizing and hosting job fairs – even engaging employers to promote hiring Guard members and the veteran community as a whole.

The National Guard has partnered with multiple agencies to mitigate guard member employment issues, noted Jim Lamback, the National Guard Bureau's Employer Support Branch chief. The

Defense Department's Hero-to-Hired program, he said, leverages a powerful job search site and online community at no cost to veterans, service members, or employers.

In Missouri alone, more than 4,000 guard members have embraced federal

*Employment  
continued on page 8*

### IN THIS ISSUE

ASSESSMENT SURVEY	2
1ST SGT COMMENTARY	3
CHIEF'S CORNER	4
MILITARY BALL	5
'BE A FIRST SERGEANT'	6
DFAC MENU	7
SAFETY SHORTS	7
IMPORTANT NUMBERS	9
PA CUSTOMER GUIDE	10

# CHIEF'S CORNER

## *Air Force committed to stopping sexual assault*



**By Chief Master Sgt. Marlon Nation**  
147th Reconnaissance Wing Command Chief

Those of you who have dedicated your life to this uniform and the principles for which it stands can't help but be disappointed with the recent news stories about our Air Force. These stories highlight a blight on our service, and that blight is this ongoing issue of sexual assault. Sexual Assault has a degrading effect on readiness, good order, discipline and the mindset and productivity of the victim. It's destructive to the dignity of human beings, and it's a serious matter that cannot be minimized.

When speaking in regards to the latest events making national headlines, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said, "I cannot convey strongly enough his (Defense Secretary Hegel's) frustration, anger and disappointment over these troubling allegations and the breakdown in discipline and standards they imply."

I'm not trying to force a solution to a problem that doesn't exist, but this is about standards, conduct and values. My motivation for talking about this is not only because it's wrong, but

because Gen. Welsh, chief of staff of the Air Force, recently said: "Command chiefs, if you are not talking about this issue, then you are part of the problem."

The 147th Reconnaissance Wing is not immune. The possibility exists for it to happen here. When we start to think that it can't, we are fooling ourselves. Furthermore, I don't think that I'm out of line in saying that, with all individual rights and protections assured, the weight of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice would be applied to any situation where this is an issue.

Sound leadership and an effective organizational culture, including the proactive efforts of bystanders and wingmen, can sustain a culture where the standards are clear and enforced. At the very least, it can cause an individual to stop and think before a destructive act is committed.

Especially in the case of sexual assault, the standards, law, regulations, guidance, expectations, commander's philosophy and just plain common sense are clear: sexual assault is wrong and will not be tolerated.

Additionally, if the standards in this area are violated, then victims must be assured that we have a strong Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program in place to ensure that victims are treated properly.

Leaders, if you are not discussing this with your sections or at least ensuring that they have a clear understanding of organizational expectations, then it will lead to a breakdown in standards and behavior.

We have got to be clear on this issue as a wing: there is no place in the 147th Reconnaissance Wing, Texas

Air National Guard or the U.S. Air Force for sexual assault.

In fact, I can't think of any time or environment where this would be condoned, and certainly not within our ranks. I don't believe there is any confusion on this issue, just poor choices and poor decision making.

We work in a dynamic and diverse workplace – one where the majority is striving greatly to the live out our core values and safeguard precious freedoms.

With this great challenge before us, we cannot let sub-standard behavior stop us from treating everyone with respect and give them a chance to re-

## HOW TO REPORT SEXUAL ASSAULT

**Step 1: Call 911 if you need emergent care**

**Step 2: If not, call the Ellington Field Hotline at (281) 840-0335 or the DoD Safe Helpline at (877) 995-5247.** Talk to SARC before sharing assault details so you don't jeopardize your reporting options.

**Step 3: Care for victim's needs**

Let the victim speak to SARC in private. Don't ask questions about assault. Remind the victim not to eat, drink, shower, use restroom until SARC provides guidance. Stay with victim until support arrives.

## Reporting Options

Restricted	Unrestricted
Service member victims	All personnel "Need to know" investigation
Confidential	Commander notified
Will NOT contact commander/police	Medical care
Can collect evidence	Evidence collected
CAN go unrestricted	CANNOT go restricted



**Service members  
and their guests  
attend the  
Armed Forces  
Day Military Ball  
May 18, 2013  
at the Reliant  
Center in  
Houston.**





# WHY BE A FIRST SERGEANT?

Provided by the 147th Reconnaissance Wing First Sergeant Council



**Master Sgt. Malvin Baerga-Rivera**  
147th Mission Support Group First Sergeant

I've been asked why I became a first shirt before, but the only answer that comes to my mind is that I've always had a passion for helping others and standing up for injustice.

I also had great mentors that guided me into becoming a supervisor, leader and counselor. During my military career, I had great first sergeants who were there to answer questions and listen whenever I needed someone to vent or express my frustration to.

I remember asking several of them what I had to do in order to become a first sergeant.

*Today's First Sergeant's Message comes from the heart of the First Sergeants' Council. A first sergeant's special duty is a tour of at least three years, not to exceed more than six years.*

*The 147th Reconnaissance Wing is looking for someone willing to take a leap of faith in his or her military career to lead, mentor, and most of all, take care of people.*

*Perhaps you are reading this article and would consider jumping into the fold of becoming a beloved first sergeant or know someone who would.*

*In this article, we ask our current first sergeants why they became first shirts and what they have enjoyed about being one.*

And they always encouraged me to be a responsible, caring supervisor, mentor and listener.

I have enjoyed everything about being a first sergeant: caring for people, listening, assisting the needs of the people for whom I am responsible.

The reality is that I am energized when I am helping others achieve their maximum potential. I compare it to the adrenalin you feel after finishing a circuit workout.

It's also the celebration of people's promotions, awards, retirements and even sharing the sad news of a fellow member's death to the troops and family members.

I also enjoy guiding people to do the right thing even when they are not being seen. As a first sergeant, the schedule is flexible and sometimes unpredictable, but I enjoy that each day is never the same.

The pleasures I get by serving others fulfill my soul constantly. The duty of a first sergeant does not end after the Unit Training Assembly. It's something you do because you're passionate about helping people.

I enjoy being accessible to the members of the organization where I serve. I wear the diamond in the uniform, but the diamond does not wear me because I am still that humble airman who wants to be a first sergeant.

## CYBER AWARENESS TIP

Service members and government employees who participate in the Thrift Savings Plan should avoid mobile apps that refer to TSP. Such apps have not received official

endorsement. Those requiring logins could compromise the security accounts. For more information about protecting TSP accounts, go to [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov).

## GUARD FACTS

### Did you know?

Tom Selleck, Norman Mailer and Charles Lindbergh are among the many famous people to serve in the National Guard.



147<sup>TH</sup> RECONNAISSANCE WING  
DINING FACILITY

Saturday  
8 June 2013

Fried Catfish  
Smothered Chicken  
Glazed Yams  
Collard Greens  
Fried Okra  
Dirty Rice  
Corn  
Cornbread

Sunday  
9 June 2013

Roast Beef  
Stuffed Fish  
Au Gratin Potatoes  
Jasmine Rice  
Glazed Carrots  
Green Beans  
Cornbread

Shortline  
Hamburger/Cheeseburger  
Hot Wings  
Corndog  
Onion Rings

Meal Price: \$4.55

# Safety Shorts



## DRIVER SAFETY

### *Tips for on-and-off-base driving:*

- **Plan ahead.** Check traffic conditions before getting on the road.
- **Turn off electronic devices.** Pull over to a safe place before talking on your cell phone or sending/receiving text messages.
- **Ensure all passengers or pets in your vehicle are properly secured.** If additional attention is needed once on the road, pull over to safely care for them.
- **Eat or snack before getting on the road.** Either eat before leaving or stop along the way if you need a break.
- **Secure loose items.** Check for items that could potentially move or roll around once the car is in motion.
- **Get your vehicle road ready.** Make adjustments to seats and temperature controls. Check headlights and windshields to ensure everything is in working condition.
- **Groom before entering your vehicle.** Don't fix your hair, shave, apply make-up or adjust clothing once you begin driving.
- **Focus.** Scan the road, use your mirrors and drive defensively.
- **Self-evaluate.** Honestly evaluate your driving behaviors and avoid anything you observe to be poor or potentially hazardous.
- **Use technology to your advantage.** Check into free online defensive driving courses to enhance your driver awareness. Other websites, such as AAA insurance, offer situational computer programs that judge reaction timing and decision making. Quicker responses help you avoid dangerous drivers around you.

programs like the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program and Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, and state initiatives like the Show-Me Heroes Program.

Missouri's success, according to Maj. Gen. Steve Danner, adjutant general, began with consolidating family and warrior support programs at their state headquarters in Jefferson City.

The move, Danner noted, allowed them to maximize responsible resource management and avoid duplication of effort. Since Sept. 11, 2001, the Missouri National Guard has supported nearly 17,600 individual deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, the Sinai, Qatar and areas around the world.

"Soldiers and airmen put on the uniform to protect the nation abroad during war and to protect their communities during times of natural disaster," Danner said. "When they aren't wearing the uniform, they're also protecting our national security interests by contributing to our economy through civilian employment. Just as we wouldn't send a soldier to war without a weapon or send an airman to fight a flood without a sandbag, we want to make sure we're outfitting our Guardsmen for success in the civilian job market."

Missouri isn't the only National Guard state making a concerted effort to find their men and women employment.

In South Carolina, the Department of Employment and Workforce Development have been partnered with the South Carolina National Guard since October 2011. Their efforts have placed more than 1,100 Guard members, saved the state \$9.3 million in unemployment benefits, and reduced National Guard unemployment rates from 16 to 3.9 percent.

The Michigan National Guard continues to develop partnerships with community colleges, trade unions/associations, state agencies and other professional organizations to provide

job and career training to award appropriate credentials upon graduation from programs. A recent partnership apprenticeship program conducted at Camp Grayling graduated 20 gas transmission technicians.

The Florida Guard Family Career Connection uses Army Guard soldiers to identify unemployed guard members at the unit level. These individuals are then connected with their local federal and state employment representatives. To date, the Florida National Guard unemployment rate is 6.2 percent, 2 percent lower than the civilian population.

The Tennessee National Guard Employment Enhancement Program provides one-on-one support to assist individuals in writing effective resumes, interview techniques, and proven methods of gaining employment.

They also push out "job blasts" identifying employment opportunities. State leadership is provided with listings of unemployed guardsmen on a monthly basis. Their National Guard's unemployment rate has been reduced by 15 percent.

"We're making a difference, there's no doubt about it," Lamback insisted. "We also have a commitment to take care of our folks and that's important."

Employing a National Guard member, Hagler observed, is a mutually beneficial proposition.

"Hiring a member of the National Guard helps employers," he said. "Our people know the importance of being on time. They know how to lead and follow, and they are mission-oriented critical thinkers."

National Guard employers seemingly agree. The Department of Labor, who handles Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act queries, reported a 40 percent decrease in National Guard complaints since 2010.

"Unemployment is a readiness issue for Guard and Reserve members," Hagler said. "While our rate is on par with the general population, we're not satisfied.

## Commanders Hotline

Ideas | Comments | Suggestions

**929-2000**



## Judge Advocate

147 Reconnaissance Wing



UTA Weekends – 0800 - 1600

281-929-2199

147RW.JA@ang.af.mil

## AMERICAN AIRMEN | SPIRITUAL WINGMEN



147 RECONNAISSANCE WING  
CHAPLAIN CORPS



DUTY HOURS: 281-929-2636

NON-DUTY HOURS: 281-929-2716

147RW.CHAPLAIN@ANG.AF.MIL

## Alcoholism is Treatable!

Need Help?

Call 1-800-410-2560

## Sexual Assault S.A.F.E. Helpline

1-877-995-5247

147<sup>TH</sup> RECONNAISSANCE WING  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE  
BLDG 1057, ROOM 236

MAJ GRETA COSTA  
929-2610

MSGT ANITA BLUE  
929-2210



TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE ON ISSUES INVOLVING  
DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT



## Ace in the Hole Retirees Association

President: James (Jim) Buchta

Vice President: James Hamm

Sect./Treas: Mildred Koehn

[www.aceintheholeretirees.com](http://www.aceintheholeretirees.com)

[147th.retirees@gmail.com](mailto:147th.retirees@gmail.com)





**Ms. Monalisa Norton**  
Family Readiness Program Manager

## Airman & Family READINESS PROGRAM

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING - ELLINGTON FIELD JRB - HOUSTON, TEXAS



The 147th Reconnaissance Wing Airman and Family Readiness Program Office provides a direct link between the commander and families. Family members can get information and help for a variety of issues, for more information contact the Family Readiness Program Manager.

# Important Numbers and Services

*Provided by: Monalisa Norton, Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager*

**American Red Cross**  
Armed Forces Emergency Number  
877-272-7337  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**Tricare Service Center**  
800-444-5445

**Military One-Source**  
800-342-9647  
[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

**Veteran Affairs**  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**Air Force Crossroads**  
[www.afcrossroads.com](http://www.afcrossroads.com)

**NGB Family Program Online Community**  
[www.jointservicessupport.org](http://www.jointservicessupport.org)

**Tricare Regional Office South**  
[www.tricare.mil/TROSouth](http://www.tricare.mil/TROSouth)

**Texas National Guard Family Support Foundation**  
[www.txngfoundation.org](http://www.txngfoundation.org)

**Military Spouse Center**  
[www.military.com/spouse](http://www.military.com/spouse)

**United Concordia**  
800-866-8499  
[www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com)

**Employer Support of Guard and Reserves (ESGR)**  
800-336-4590  
[www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil)

**Humana-Military**  
[www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com)

**National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies**  
[www.naccrra.org](http://www.naccrra.org)

**Hope for Heroes**  
[www.samaritan-counseling.org](http://www.samaritan-counseling.org)

**Hero Bracelets**  
[www.herobracelets.org](http://www.herobracelets.org)

## Kid's Area

**Kids Health (Toddler to Teens)**  
[www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)

**Kids.gov**  
[www.kids.gov](http://www.kids.gov)

**Kid's Space**  
[www.kids-space.org](http://www.kids-space.org)

**FEMA for Kids**  
[www.fema.gov/kids](http://www.fema.gov/kids)

**White House Kids Site**  
[www.whitehouse.gov/kids](http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids)

**Texas Senate Kids**  
[www.senate.state.tx.us/kids](http://www.senate.state.tx.us/kids)

**Energy Kids Page**  
[www.eia.doe.gov/kids](http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids)

**Texas Parks & Wildlife**  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)